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Bishop's Stortford Urban District  
Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1955





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Council

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## Members of the Council, 1955-1956

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### *Chairman:*

Councillor J. E. HAMPTON, J.P.

### *Vice-Chairman:*

Councillor G. HURST-GREAVES

Councillor E. BARRETT

„ J. E. BARRY

„ Mrs. I. N. BIRD

„ S. E. COOPER

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(Chairman of the Public Health Committee)

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(Chairman of Finance and General Purposes  
Committee)

## Public Health Department

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EIRWEN M. JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health

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A. L. GOOD, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., A.I.Hsg.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

---

F. W. P. HARMSWORTH, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.,  
Additional Sanitary Inspector  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

---

H. F. B. NICKOLDS  
Clerk (until 26.11.55)

---

Miss J. RODGERS  
Clerk/Shorthand Typist (from 28.11.55)

---

A. TURNER  
Rodent Operator

# Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

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Health Department,  
The Council House,  
Bishop's Stortford,  
May, 1956

*To the Chairman and Members,  
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1955, on the health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's population estimate of 13,800 shows an increase of 320 over last year.

The birth rate is higher than last year and the death rate lower. The infantile mortality rate, however, shows a marked increase, there being ten deaths of infants under one year of age, and special reference is made to this in the report. Diseases of the circulatory system were responsible for a little over 48% of the total deaths, and comment was made in respect of this group of diseases in the 1954 Report. There were only two notified cases of poliomyelitis during the year, both of these being of the non-paralytic type.

Departmental changes were put into operation by the Council during the year, and as a result duties in connection with the allocation of Council houses and building inspection were transferred to the Surveyor's Department. This should prove to be a good thing and will enable the work of the Department to be focussed more specifically along Public Health lines. There is plenty of work ahead and much needed attention can now be given to the more systematic inspection of food premises, factories and routine housing inspection.

1955 proved to be, on the whole, a healthy year for Bishop's Stortford and we hope that this trend of events will continue.

We desire once again to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and encouragement during the year.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

EIRWEN M. JONES,  
*Medical Officer of Health*

A. L. GOOD,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector



## SECTION A

### Statistics

#### (1) General

Area (acres) ...	...	...	...	3,826
Population ...	...	...	...	13,800
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	£196,065
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...				£804
Number of Inhabited Houses			...	4,399
Density of Persons per Acre			...	3.6
„ Houses „	...	...	...	1.15
Average Number of Occupants per House	...	...	...	3.13

#### (2) Vital

		Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales	...	15.0	11.7	24.9
Bishop's Stortford	...	16.01	11.38	45.2

#### BIRTHS

Number of Legitimate Births	...	...	201
„ Illegitimate Births	...	...	20
Percentage of Illegitimate Births	...	...	9.9
Total Number of Births	Males	113	
	Females	108	221

#### DEATHS

Total Number of Deaths	...	...	157
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## INFANT MORTALITY

The Infant Mortality rate for the district appears well above the average for the National figure and again comment is made in detail.

Ten infants failed to survive the first year of life, and of these seven died from conditions associated with prematurity. No deaths occurred after the age of two months. Seven infants died before the age of one month and of these five were premature, one suffered from haemorrhagic disease of the newborn and one succumbed to a staphylococcal infection of the umbilicus.

The remaining three deaths occurred at the ages of one to two months, and of these two were again associated with prematurity, whilst the third had a congenital heart defect.

The hard core of the Infant Mortality rate again lay in the premature infant group, and it is likely that until further antenatal factors are understood this group will remain. Inevitably it would appear that a number of premature labours will occur.

### (3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death		Males	Females	Total
	All Causes ... ..	69	88	157
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	1	—	1
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease ...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
8	Measles ... ..	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	—	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	1	2	3
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ... ..	1	—	1
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	4	4
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	3	3
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	11	9	20
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
16	Diabetes ... ..	—	2	2
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	15	16	31
18	Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	7	5	12
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2	4
20	Other Heart Disease ... ..	6	9	15
21	Other Circulatory Disease ...	5	9	14
22	Influenza ... ..	—	1	1
23	Pneumonia ... ..	5	8	13
24	Bronchitis ... ..	3	4	7
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..	1	—	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ... ..	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations ... ..	—	1	1
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases ... ..	8	8	16
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	1	3
34	All other Accidents ... ..	—	2	2
35	Suicide ... ..	—	1	1
36	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
	Still Births ... ..	2	6	8
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (seven under 4 weeks of age) ... ..	6	4	10

## **SECTION B**

### **Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases**

#### **(1) Notifiable Diseases**

*Notifications of the following infectious diseases were  
received during the year:*

				All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 60	Over Sixty
Measles ...	...	...	...	254	5	37	84	121	5	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	25	1	4	8	9	—	—	3	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	5	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—
Infectious Hepatitis	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	18	—	—	—	—	—	8	10	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Measles ...	14	—	46	29	58	82	18	5	—	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	4	4	1	5	—	—	—	1	9	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	2	6	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—

When considered as a whole the past year was fortunately comparatively free of serious infectious diseases.

The heavy biennial incidence of measles occurred as was expected and from information obtained from practitioners the attacks did not appear to have been of a severe nature, neither did serious sequelae occur.

In August, Puerperal Pyrexia notifications appeared in small numbers and the notifications continued to be received during September, October and November. These infections were found to be due to Haemolytic Streptococci and as these all occurred in a Maternity Unit the Hospital Authorities decided to close the Unit in order that infected individuals and contacts could be moved out and thorough cleansing of the Unit undertaken. These drastic measures were put into operation when it was found that infants had become infected.

Whooping cough appeared mainly during the first four months of the year and also during August, September and October. Twenty five cases occurred in all, and six of these were severe. It was found upon making special enquiries that three only of the twenty five children had been immunised against Whooping Cough. One of these three cases was severe and the child had unfortunately only received one dose of antigen. It had not been possible to complete the course owing to the fact that immunisations were left in abatement by some parents during the time regarded as the Poliomyelitis season. The other two children who had undergone immunisation had very mild attacks. While the figures are small they are encouraging and it is to be hoped that Whooping Cough Immunisations will continue to be accepted by parents.

## (2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.54 ...	32	4	30	8
Number of cases notified during year ...	2	—	2	—
Number of cases restored during year ...	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer ...	4	—	1	1
Cases removed ...	7	—	5	—
Cases on Register at 31.12.55 ...	31	4	28	9

### **(3) Food Poisoning**

No true outbreaks of food poisoning were notified during the year. Five individual infections occurred, two of which originated outside the district and were probably of a toxic nature. The remaining three were due to *Salmonella Typhimurium*, but the source of infection was not traced in any case. Supervision was continued in all cases until three consecutive negative bacteriological results were obtained.

### **(4) Poliomyelitis**

The district was particularly fortunate in a year when many areas suffered from a high incidence of Poliomyelitis. Two cases only were notified and a third suspected case was later withdrawn. Both were of the non-paralytic type affecting a boy of 10 and a young adult of 20. Complete and normal recoveries were made in both cases. The boy of 10 became ill during the school holidays and this fact, no doubt, reduced considerably the number of possible contacts.

### **(5) Prophylaxis against Smallpox, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus**

The duties of performing prophylaxis measures again continued with the County Council and during the early part of the year combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough prophylaxis was performed almost without exception at the Welfare Centre, and also by some practitioners. A number of practitioners remained unconvinced of the advantages of Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Towards the end of the year the County Council made available at the Welfare Centre a triple vaccine containing Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus antigen.

### **(6) Mass Radiography**

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the town in the Spring of 1955. As in previous years the Council accommodated the Unit and some assistance in publicising the campaign was given by the Health Department.

It was fortunate that the Unit was again successful in making the survey while the schools and colleges were in session. The County Education Authority did however withdraw from their previous arrangements whereby parties of children over 14 years of age from the Authorities' schools were X-rayed. It was felt that over a period of years this group had



yielded practically no positive results and that it was no longer necessary to continue the arrangements. These young people therefore attended as members of the public. Organised school parties however attended from non-State Aided Schools in the town.

The total number of attendances was 2,246 compared with 2,730 at the 1952 survey. It was encouraging that 1,374 of the General Public attended against 1,268 previously.

Group	1952			1955		
	Male	Fmle.	Total	Male	Fmle.	Total
SCHOOLS (excluding Primary) (including staff) ..	255	466	721	186	30	216
Large Films ... ..	16	10	26	1	—	1
PUBLIC SESSIONS ...	561	707	1268	563	811	1374
Large Films ... ..	28	27	55	27	25	52
ORGANISED GROUPS AND FACTORIES ...	330	411	741	276	380	656
Large Films ... ..	11	9	20	7	7	14
TOTAL MINIATURES...	1146	1584	2730	1025	1221	2246
TOTAL LARGE FILMS...	55	46	101	35	32	67

Of the 67 individuals who were recalled for large films two only were found to be suffering from Active Tuberculosis and were notified. Nineteen were either discharged or kept under observation and eleven had other heart or chest abnormalities.

	1952			1955		
	Fmle.	Male	Total	Fmle.	Male	Total
Cases not notified, i.e. discharged or kept under observation ... ..	14	18	32	11	8	19
Cases notified as a result of the examination ...	1	2	3	—	2	2

## (7) Refuse

Refuse continues to be disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the Castle Grounds.

#### **(8) Drainage and Sewerage**

Routine effluent samples taken at the Sewage Disposal Works were found to be satisfactory and in accordance with the required standard.

#### **(9) Water Supply**

Samples of the water supply were taken at regular intervals and submitted for examination. All were found to be satisfactory.

#### **(10) Swimming Pool**

Six samples of water were taken from the Swimming Pool during the summer and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were reported upon as satisfactory.



## **SECTION C**

### **Health Services available in Bishop's Stortford**

#### **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT**

##### **Part II Hospital and Specialist Services**

###### *Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital*

Staff : General Practitioners, Consultants and a Resident Medical Officer.

Facilities are available for Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopædics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine and Radiology.

###### *Haymeads Hospital*

Staff : Consultants, Registrars, and Resident House Officers, Specialist Departments in the following:—Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, Orthopædics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine, Psychiatry, Radiotherapy, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis.  
A Pathological Laboratory provides an excellent service at this Hospital.

##### **Part III Services of the Local Health Authority**

###### *Hertfordshire*

1. Home Nursing.
2. School Health Services consisting of :—
  - School Medical Inspections.
  - Clinics.
  - Speech Clinic.—Wednesday all day, *Portland Road Clinic*.
  - Orthodontic Clinic.—Two half days monthly. By appointment.
  - Eye Clinic.—Monday 2—3 p.m. By appointment. *Haymeads Hospital*. (In conjunction with Hospital Service).
  - Minor Ailments.—Every morning 9—10 a.m. *Portland Road Clinic*.
  - General Clinic.—Second and fourth Friday each month. 9.30 to 12.0 noon; *Portland Road Clinic*.
  - Child Guidance Clinic.—Every Thursday, 10—12 noon, 2—4 p.m. *Portland Road Clinic*.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Services :—  
 Health Visiting.  
 Clinics.  
 Infant Welfare Clinic.—2nd, 4th Thursday, 10 a.m.—  
 12 noon and every Thursday, 2 p.m. *Water Lane*  
*Institute*. (Facilities are provided for Diphtheria  
 Immunisation and Vaccination).  
 Ante-Natal Clinic.—1st Friday each month. *Portland*  
*Road Clinic*.
4. Home Help Organisation.  
 Organiser in Attendance. Tuesday, 10—11 a.m., Thurs-  
 day, 10—11 a.m., Friday, 2—3 p.m., *Portland Road*  
*Clinic*.

#### **Part IV General Medical Services**

1. General Practitioners :—  

Dr. R. P. Gammie	}	20, North Street, Bishop's Stortford
Dr. G. G. Holmes		
Dr. G. A. Sharpe		
Dr. I. D. Paterson		
Dr. P. H. Hewitt		
Dr. R. A. Wallace, 40, Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford		
Dr. J. T. Wallace, 40, Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford		
Dr. E. Leigh, 11, Church Street, Bishop's Stortford		
2. Dental Practitioners :—  

Mr. J. Dickson	}	The Folly, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. C. Bullpitt		
Mr. O. N. Catchpole, 6a, North St., Bishop's Stortford		
Mr. H. Davies, 14, Bridge Street, Bishop's Stortford		
Mr. G. E. Dodd	}	9, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. W. E. Dodd		
Miss Joan Dodd		
Mr. J. Rawlinson, 39, Hockerill Street, Bishop's Stortford		

Adequate provisions are made in the town for pharma-  
 ceutical services.

#### **Voluntary Organisations**

- Family Planning Association :—  
 Clinics.—1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday, each month at  
 6.30 p.m. 2nd Thursday each month, 10.30 a.m. to  
 11.0 a.m., *Haymeads Hospital*.

## **SECTION D**

### **Sanitary Administration**

#### **(1) Inspection of the District**

Total number of visits ... ..	3,718
Dwelling house inspected for housing defects...	926
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	412
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects ... ..	58
Drainage inspections ... ..	48
Overcrowded Premises ... ..	2
Special and miscellaneous visits ... ..	90
Interviews with Owners, etc. ... ..	66
<i>Re</i> Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis ... ..	79
Slaughterhouses ... ..	303
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc. ... ..	34
Bakehouses ... ..	2
Butcher's Shops ... ..	23
Fish Shops ... ..	14
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens ... ..	13
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	4
Other Food Shops, Stores, etc....	108
Market Stalls ... ..	5
Factories ... ..	19
Workplaces, Offices and Shops ... ..	7
Schools ... ..	3
<i>Re</i> Petroleum Acts ... ..	17
Building Byelaws ... ..	1,265
Council Houses ... ..	110
<i>Re</i> Applications for Housing Accommodation ...	85
Rat Infested Premises ... ..	2
Licensed Premises ... ..	13
Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	5
Atmospheric Pollution ... ..	5

The work of the Department was seen to better advantage during 1955, a total of 3,718 visits being recorded as against 2,558 for the previous year, an increase in output of a little more than 45%.

## **(2) Complaints and Matters Referred**

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	211
Complaints investigated...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	24
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	9

## **(3) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings**

Drains tested with water	...	...	...	...	441
Drains tested with other means...	...	...	...	...	14

## **(4) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices**

### *(a) Preliminary Notices*

	No. Served	No. com- plied with
(i) Dwelling Houses for Housing Defects...	109	61
(ii) Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	5	2

### *(b) Statutory Notices*

See Housing Section for Details.

*N.B.—The number of notices complied with may include notices outstanding from the previous year.*

## (5) Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effected

	At Dwelling Houses	At Food Premises	At Shops, Offices, Hotels, etc.
Damp walls and other damp conditions remedied ...	39	—	—
Roofs repaired ...	49	—	—
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	15	—	—
Gutters, rainwater pipes, etc., repaired or renewed ...	23	—	—
External Walls repaired or rebuilt	26	—	—
Fireplaces, hearths, etc., repaired or renewed ...	22	—	—
Stairs repaired or renewed ...	5	—	1
Floors repaired or renewed ...	37	2	5
Windows and doors repaired or renewed ...	64	—	—
Lighting and ventilation defects remedied ...	14	—	—
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed ...	85	1	7
Rooms cleansed and decorated ...	25	—	7
Miscellaneous defects remedied ...	31	2	3
Yards paved or repaired ...	7	—	—
Drains cleansed or repaired ...	10	2	—
Drains provided or relaid ...	15	1	8
Inspection chambers provided or repaired ...	17	2	3
Gulleys provided or renewed ...	12	1	7
Urinals provided or improved ...	—	3	3
Water closets reconstructed or new provided ...	6	4	17
Water closets repaired ...	33	11	2
Sinks, baths, etc., and waste pipes fitted... ..	28	8	28
Food stores provided ...	8	1	—
Accumulations removed ...	1	—	—
Hot water supply provided ...	4	3	7

## (6) Disinfection and Disinfestation

		Rooms disinfected with Formaldehyde Lamps	Parcels of Bedding passed through Steam Disinfector	Houses disinfected with Hydrogen Cyanide	Houses disinfected by other means	4-oz. Tins of Izal issued	1-pint Bottles of D.D.T. Insecticide issued
Following Infectious Diseases	...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Following other Diseases	...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Following Vermin Infestation at							
(a) Council Houses	...	—	—	—	6	—	—
(b) Other Houses	...	—	—	—	4	—	—
TOTAL	...	8	—	—	10	—	—

## (7) Inspection and Supervision of Food

### (a) MILK SUPPLIES

There are five producers of milk in the Urban District and four retailers of milk. Three of the producers are licensed for "Tuberculin Tested" milk, and two are producing "Non-Designated" milk.

Two of the retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested", "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" milk.

82 samples of bottled milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satis- factory	No. Unsatis- factory
Pasteurised	39	39	—
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	27	27	—
Sterilised	16	16	—

76 of these samples were obtained by the Department and the remaining six by officers of other authorities.



52 samples of raw milk were taken from churns on arrival at the Hallingbury Road Dairy and submitted for examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. 15 of these samples were of raw ungraded milk, 3 of which were unsatisfactory, and 37 were of raw tuberculin tested milk, 11 of which were unsatisfactory.

This raw milk is pasteurised at the dairy before delivery to the consumer.

#### (b) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM

50 premises are now registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, an increase of one over last year.

#### *Bacteriological Examination*

Three samples of ice cream were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and all were reported to be Grade I and therefore satisfactory.

		PROVISIONAL GRADING			
		1	2	3	4
Total number of samples	...	3	—	—	—
Number pre-packed	...	3	—	—	—
Number not pre-packed	...	—	—	—	—

#### (c) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

2,575 animals were killed at the Private Slaughter House, 4, South Street during the year, and the carcasses and offal of one bullock and one calf slaughtered at Hatfield Heath were inspected on arrival at a local butcher's shop. Every animal slaughtered was inspected and full details of the meat condemned is revealed in the tables below.

#### CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

It is of interest to record that three bullocks were found to be infected with *Cysticercus Bovis*, but in each case the infection was localised and the infected parts condemned. In accordance with Memo. 3/Meat the carcasses were placed in Cold Storage for twenty-one days at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees fahrenheit. *Cysticercus Bovis* is the intermediate or bladderworm stage of the tapeworm *Taenia*

Saginata which is found only in man. *Taenia Saginata* can attain a length of about 20 feet in 70 days and may live in the intestine for as long as 25 years. The parasite has been more in evidence since the War but these are believed to be the first recorded cases in Bishop's Stortford.

#### LYMPHATIC LEUKAEMIA

It is also of interest to note that a pig slaughtered at South Street on the 6th September was found to have suffered from Lymphatic Leukaemia and the entire carcase was condemned. Lymphatic Leukaemia is a condition which gives rise to a marked increase in white blood corpuscles. It is rarely found in food animals, pigs being affected least of all.

Meat Inspection is a profound and captivating subject, and the need for constant and unrelenting vigil on the part of the Sanitary Inspectors is paramount when it is realised that the entire carcasses and offal of twelve animals were condemned as unfit for human consumption. It will be noted also that some part of the carcase or organ was condemned in respect of 502 other animals.

The Slaughter House has been approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as an ordinary Deadweight Certification Centre for Pigs. In this connection 1,244 pigs were inspected during the year for certification in accordance with the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme and fees totalling £35 1s. were received by the Council from the Ministry in this respect.

A perusal of the tables below reveals the variety of food-stuffs condemned during the year, the total weight of which amounted to 10 tons, 9 cwt., 65 lbs., a not insignificant quantity of food.



# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed ...	319	72	881	1303
Number Inspected ...	320	73	881	1303
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	5	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	64	—	175	229
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	20%	—	20.4%	17.9%
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	11	—	—	20
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.8%	—	—	1.7%
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned ...	—	—	—	—

# DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Heads and Tongues ...	286 lbs.	—	—	220 lbs.
Hearts ...	16 lbs.	—	2 lbs.	18 lbs.
Livers ...	660 lbs.	—	12 lbs.	189 lbs.
Lungs ...	187 lbs.	—	147 lbs.	270 lbs.
Kidneys ...	40 lbs.	—	1 lbs.	6 lbs.
Mesenterys ...	16 lbs.	—	—	9 lbs.
Spleens ...	2 lbs.	—	—	2 lbs.
Carcass Meat ...	338 lbs.	—	257 lbs.	574 lbs.

# DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight or number	Description	Weight or number
Bacon ... ..	128 lbs.	Prawns ... ..	16 lbs.
Beef ... ..	55 lbs.	Rabbits ... ..	4 lbs.
Butter ... ..	13 lbs.	Sausages ... ..	27 lbs.
Cabbages ... ..	24 lbs.	Tinned Fish ... ..	34 lbs.
Cheese ... ..	35 lbs.	Tinned Fruit ... ..	815 lbs.
Chicken ... ..	13 lbs.	Tinned Fruit ... ..	7425 kilos
Chocolate Rolls ... ..	1 lb.	Tinned Ham ... ..	191 lbs.
Cooked Meats ... ..	13 lbs.	Tinned Meat ... ..	1659 lbs.
Escallops ... ..	8 doz.	Tinned Milk & Cream ... ..	272 lbs.
Fish ... ..	65 lbs.	Tinned Soups ... ..	26 lbs.
Ham ... ..	76 lbs.	Tinned Vegetables ... ..	318 lbs.
Lamb ... ..	32 lbs.	Other Tinned Foods... ..	12 lbs.
Meat Pies ... ..	33 lbs.	Misc. Foodstuffs ... ..	23 lbs.

## **(8) Rodent Control**

### *(i) Disinfestation of Sewers*

70 manholes on the foul sewerage system were test-baited and "takes" were recorded in 4 instances.

As a result of test-baiting a sewer treatment was carried out.

### *(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties*

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	101
"    Business Premises treated	...	77
"    Council Premises treated	...	8
"    Pre-baits laid ... ..	...	3,076
"    "    partly taken ... ..	...	1,194
"    "    completely taken	...	1,113
"    Poison Baits laid ... ..	...	2,992
"    "    partly taken ... ..	...	827
"    "    completely taken	...	158
"    Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	305
"    "    (b) mice	...	215
Total number of visits made by the operator		2,091

## **(9) The Storage of Petroleum Spirit**

Sixty-three premises are licensed for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, a decrease of one over the previous year. Fees received by the Council in respect of these licences amounted to £44. 0s. 0d.

#### **(10) The Provision of Dustbins**

1955 was the first full year of operation of the Council's scheme to provide dustbins, a total of 614 dustbins being issued. 768 dustbins have now been provided under this scheme since it started in July, 1954, the dustbins being supplied by the Surveyor against the requisition of the Sanitary Inspector.

The service continues to function extremely well, and it is very pleasing to observe the much improved position regarding dustbins throughout the town, a fact which the men engaged in Refuse Collection, no doubt appreciate.

#### **(11) Factories Act, 1937**

19 visits were made to the premises on the Register and it was found necessary in one instance to serve an Informal Notice where contraventions existed.

It was ascertained from the lists submitted by the factory occupiers that there were 17 factory outworkers resident in the district.

Details of visits carried out and defects found and remedied are given in the tables below.

*Part I of the Act*

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	20	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	19	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	16	16	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	4	3	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**(12) Housing**

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	—
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	117

Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings	6
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**HOUSING ACT, 1936. SECTION 9**

*Houses capable of repair at reasonable expense:*

Statutory notices were served in respect of the following properties

63, Hadham Road	169, Rye Street
65, Hadham Road	171, Rye Street
77, Hadham Road	173, Rye Street
79, Hadham Road	175, Rye Street

Re-conditioning was satisfactorily completed at No. 14, Jervis Road, the Notice having been served during 1954.

**HOUSING ACT, 1936. SECTION 11**

*Houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense:*

Statutory notices were served in respect of the following properties

32, Castle Street	27, Newtown Road
94, Dunmow Road	94, London Road
102, Dunmow Road	96, London Road
68, Hadham Road	100, London Road
23, Newtown Road	9, Trinity Street

Subsequently Demolition Orders were served in respect of :—

32, Castle Street	9, Trinity Street
102, Dunmow Road	

Closing Orders were served in respect of :—

94, Dunmow Road	100, London Road
68, Hadham Road	23, Newtown Road
94, London Road	25, Newtown Road
96, London Road	27, Newtown Road

The following houses were re-conditioned by the owners during the year :—

75, Apton Road	28, Jervis Road
77, Apton Road	6, Oak Street
73, Hadham Road	

The Council rehoused the tenants of Riverside House, Dane Street, and 66, London Road. Riverside House was demolished by the owner and 66, London Road (a terraced house) was voluntarily closed by the owners.

The tabulated statement required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, as extended, is given below :—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	926
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	1338
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	83
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	137
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	11
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	120

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	72
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a)	By owners ... ..	6
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	2
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(3) Number of written undertakings accepted...	—
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
E.—Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished	—
F.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949 :—	
(1) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)...	—
(2) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	—
G.—Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—	
(1) Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	8
(2) Number of dwelling houses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders	1
4. <i>Overcrowding—Part IV, Housing Act, 1936</i>	
No action was taken under this Part during the year.	